Shaping the most competitive ports in the EU

Example of AspBAN project

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I. Messages to take home

- Potential for ports to become hub of the blue economy. Bigger ports have already started to work as open innovation ecosystems. They also found innovative solutions to their own challenges.

- Diversification of activities is not always easy for smaller and medium size ports.

- Cooperation is interesting as SMEs innovation can come from all over Europe.

- The AspBAN project is the “flagship project” to have in mind as it a solution provider for boosting ports’ as open innovation ecosystem for SMEs and Start-ups providing solutions for ports and the blue economy in general.

- Final goal: Maximize the Blue economy supply chain; Give access to the small / medium size ports the same innovation capacity bigger ports can tap into.
II. Context on ports development

80% ports (~40) consider their prime goal is to be hubs for blue economy in the new emergent sector.
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Why have these advances not been realised today?

- The BE emerging sectors had no specific port facilities
- The BE sectors see the ports as a cost center and not as a solution provider
- High initial investment which ports cannot commit to alone
II. AspBAN: a solution-provider

Connecting actors & bringing in private investors

Activities

- Acceleration programmes
- Ports Database
- Experts & Mentors Database
- Investors Database
- Funds for pilot projects
- CPMR Blue Accelerator Network
- Handbook on sources of funding
- MoU to be signed by investors
- Service Package for Blue Investors

With the contribution of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund of the European Union - Grant Agreement No: EMFF-APC-2020-AspBAN-101033749
II. AspBAN to overcome those challenges

Acceleration services platform

Result of the open call (Year 1)

Applying SMEs and Start-ups

- 31% Green / Smart ports
- 26% Green Shipping
- 15% High Tech Marine services
- 15% Aquaculture
- 15% Marine Construction
- 15% Marine Business Service
- 15% Safety and Surveillance
- 11% MRE
Close connection with EEA, transatlantic and EU & non-EU sea basins

Support from UN Secretary General Special Envoy for the Ocean

Support from Portugal’s Minister of State, Economy and Digital Transition

Winner of the Atlantic Project Awards (2021)

137 strategic partners – a total universe of 391 ports

To join the Strategic Partner Network, contact elise.wattrelot@crpm.org
Perspectives 2022 - 2023

- Baltic Sea Commission Workshop, November 2022
- CPMR Geographical Commissions Workshop:
  - Atlantic Arc Commission (June 2021)
  - Island Commission (Dec 2021)
  - Balkan and Black Sea Commission (Sept 2022)
  - North Sea Commission (Sept 2022)
- Inter-Geographical Commissions Workshop, 26 October 2022, Crete, Greece
- AspBAN Policy Recommendations Endorsed by AAC regions
- AspBAN Bootcamp With participation of selected SMEs and Start-ups
- SEARICA Event Beginning of 1st semester 2023
- Business Models for Ports and Accelerators
- SEARICA Event Beginning of 1st semester 2023
- FINAL CONFERENCE APRIL 2023
Thank you!
Takk!

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Visit our website at:
https://aspban.eu/en/home/